The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1776 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1945 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 35, NO. 17

DIPLOMACY?

We hereby submit some grave facts with regard to the Department of State of the United States Government here quoted and we respectfully pose the question whether the State Department can be trusted. It is regrettable that this situation has arisen, but we feel that the facts in the case should be made known to the general membership of the American Federation of Labor.

Following the adjournment of the Mexico City Conference on Inter-American Affairs, in which the American Federation of Labor was represented by an official advisor to the delegate of the United States, AFL President Green and Secretary Meany interviewed Assistant Secretary of State Rockefeller, on March 19, in regard to securing similar representation for the American Federation of Labor at the forthcoming San Francisco Conference. Mr. Green and Mr. Meany also stated to Mr. Rockefeller that they would like to bring a number of AFL officials to San Francisco in addition to an advisor. Mr. Rockefeller stated that Secretary of State Stettinius was heartily in favor of giving labor, management and agriculture representation in an advisory capacity similar to that accorded to these groups at the Mexico City. However, he stated it would not be possible to bring any large group in addition to an advisor because transportation and hotel facilities were limited and controlled by the State Department.

A few days later the AFL officials were informed by Mr. Rockefeller that this plan would not be followed; that the staff of the State Department had ruled against the idea. President Green and Secretary Meany protested. Since Mr. Stettinius had already publicly taken a position in favor of representation similar to that of Mexico City, they urged that this policy be upheld.

Two days later the AFL officials were informed by Mr. Rockefeller that the decision had been changed; that the State Department was again committed to giving labor representation as advisor to the American Delegation at San Francisco. However, on Monday, April 9, unofficial word came that this was not the case; that the AFL and the CIO were to be included in a group of organizations that were being invited to send unofficial consultants to San Francisco to be used in an advisory capacity *when the delegates so requested, and only then.*

President Green and Secretary Meany immediately sought out Secretary of State Stettinius and had an interview with him on Monday afternoon, April 9. Mr. Stettinius confirmed the report that labor was not to be accorded advisory status but was to be given the status of consultant and said that this decision was final. Mr. Green and Mr. Meany said that if the decision were final the American Federation of Labor would have to accept and do the best it could under the circumstances. However, in an effort to assure adequate representation for the American Federation of Labor at this all-important conference, Mr. Green and Mr. Meany urged Secretary of State Stettinius for help in securing transportation for the members of the AFL Executive Council so that the council could proceed to San Francisco at the opening of the conference and be on the ground to take whatever action was necessary to present the viewpoint of the American Federation of Labor to the delegates and the public.

The reason for making this request to Secretary of State Stettinius was that the State Department had publicly announced it controlled all rail and air transportation to San Francisco from the east prior to the opening of the conference.

Mr. Stettinius stated that this was not possible—that all the transportation facilities which the department would provide for the American Federation of Labor for one conference would be for one consultant.

Mr. Meany mentioned the fact that the CIO had announced publicly plans for taking the President and Secretary and all the Vice Presidents to San Francisco to attend the conference. Mr. Green and Mr. Meany also pointed out that a group of trade unionists from foreign countries were planning to go to San Francisco under the sponsorship of Mr. Sidney Hillman, chairman of the CIO-PAC, to demand recognition for a new world trade union group which is in process of formation.

The AFL representatives also told Mr. Stettinius that Mr. Hillman had announced that transportation for himself was to be arranged through the State Department. Mr. Stettinius vehemently denied this and said that the foreign group could secure no transportation, by air or rail prior to the conference, through the State Department, nor could the CIO secure transportation for any more persons than one consultant and one alternate.

Mr. Stettinius was then asked by Mr. Green and Mr. Meany if it was possible to arrange this transportation through any other government department. He said emphatically no—that the State Department controlled all space and no other government department could arrange transportation prior to the opening of the conference.

Despite Mr. Stettinius' denial, Mr. Philip Murray publicly stated on Wednesday, April 11, that he was taking the CIO Vice Presidents and that transportation for them and his staff facilities were to be arranged through the State Department. In addition, several of the foreign delegates told AFL representatives around this time that they were going to San Francisco in a special car which the State Department was allocating to Mr. Hillman.

Late on Thursday afternoon, April 12, Secretary Meany again brought this matter to Secretary Stettinius' attention and told him of the persistent statements of the CIO and the Hillman group that they were getting transportation arranged by the State Department and again requested Mr. Stettinius to make transportation arrangements for a similar group from the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Stettinius stated emphatically that the CIO was not going to get any cooperation beyond the two persons he had mentioned before and that Mr. Hillman could not get transportation through the State Department prior to the conference under any circumstances.

In making this statement, Mr. Stettinius said "Cross my heart, this is true," and Mr. Stettinius promptly crossed his heart.

On Thursday evening, April 19, the Liberty Limited left Washington with two special cars attached, containing the CIO officials and a group of foreign labor representatives sponsored by PAC Chairman Sidney Hillman. This group of more than thirty people is now in San Francisco.

Of course, the American Federation of Labor does not object to the CIO Vice Presidents going to San Francisco. On the contrary, as representatives of a segment of American workers, the American Federation of Labor feels that the CIO should have full representation at San Francisco. However, if the facilities of the State Department or of any other government agency have been extended to the CIO to secure transportation for its vice presidents, the American Federation of Labor, which is a much larger organization and represents far more American workers, should at least get similar consideration. The American Federation of Labor does not object to the representatives of foreign labor movement, who are traveling under the protective wing of Mr. Sidney Hillman and who are interested in creating an International Party going to San Francisco. No harm can come from these representatives traveling 3,000 miles through a really democratic country in which there are free trade unionism, freedom of worship, freedom of speech and many other things to which workers all over the world should be entitled.

But if the State Department or any other government agency can give such consideration to foreign visitors, it should at least cooperate in securing transportation for the officers of the American Federation of Labor who are more than anxious to be in attendance at San Francisco to protect the interests of the 7,000,000 members who are American citizens.

P. S.—Secretary of Labor Perkins, who hitherto had taken no part in the above negotiations, offered to secure transportation for the entire Executive Council at its staff. This offer was made at 2:25 P.M., April 24, too late, of course, for the AFL to rearrange its plans which were made after Secretary Stettinius' final decision.

Group Studies Labor Press Awards

Washington, D. C.—President Matthew Woll, of the International Labor Press of America, announced the appointment of a committee authorized at the last convention of the association to develop a form of award to be issued to labor papers for outstanding achievement.

The awards are to embrace the several forms of labor publications which are members of the association, the labor press, distinguishing between official trade union publications and the type commonly recognized as the labor press. It was believed that the award should provide for the varying types of effort involved, such as editorial matter, news, format, appearance, etc.

President Woll appointed a committee to consider the subject, prepare such awards as may be decided upon, as well as plan and carry out the work itself. It will meet in Washington.

The committee is headed by Lewis M. Herrmann, New Jersey Labor Herald, Trenton, N. J., as chairman. The other members are:

Fred S. Walker, The Trades Unionist, Washington, D. C.; Frank B. Powers, Commercial Telegraphers Journal, Washington, D. C.; Hugo Ernst, Catering Industry Employee, Cincinnati, Ohio; Leon Birnbaum, Progressive Labor World, Philadelphia, Pa.; Bernard Tassler, American Federationist; Thomas Dunwoody, Pressmen's Magazine, Pressmen's Home, Penn.; Ed Keating, Labor, Washington, D. C.; Ed J. Hillock, Plumbers Journal, Washington, D. C.; Martin McIntyre, The Union, Brasford, Pa.; Ruth Taylor, New York; Leon B. Schaller, The Union Reporter, Camden, N. J.

Labor Consultants Denied Active Role As San Francisco Conference Opens

San Francisco.—Labor was only meagerly represented—and in an obscure capacity—when the United Nations Conference on the establishment of a world security organization opened here.

The American Federation of Labor was denied the opportunity to have its representatives serve the United States delegation in an advisory capacity.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, which had sought to transfer its Spring meeting here from Washington so that the highest ranking officers of the Federation would be on hand to protect labor's interests, was denied immediate transportation to this city by the State Department, which controlled travel to the site of the conference.

Reduced to the capacity of "consultants"—who can be consulted or not, depending upon the whim of the U. S. delegates—labor representatives, along with those of business, agriculture, fraternal societies and educational organizations, were left on the fringe of the big doings.

By appointment of AFL President William Green, Robert J. Watt flew here to serve as the AFL "consultant." He will be assisted here by Robert Byron, president of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association; C. J. Haggerty, president of the California State Federation of Labor, and Daniel Flanagan, Acting AFL Regional Director of Organization in this area.

A number of members of the AFL Executive Council are expected to come here to attend the conference after the conclusion of the one-week council meeting in Washington which starts April 30. The State Department indicated it would be able to arrange transportation for the council members then because travel rush here is expected to subside after the conference is under way.

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green said that Mr. Watt will be present to the United States delegation at the San Francisco Conference a number of recommendations with regard to world peace which have been officially approved at AFL conventions.

A committee of the Executive Council, he said, will take to San Francisco such additional and supplementary recommendations as may be formulated at the council meeting here.

"The American Federation of Labor stands unanimously for the formation of an international security organization to establish and enforce world peace," Mr. Green declared. "Our representatives are instructed to do everything in their power to achieve that all-important goal."

At the recent Inter-American Conference in Mexico City, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany served as "adviser" to the U. S. delegation. He reported that the labor advisers were permitted and encouraged to participate in the discussions and to help formulate the proposals submitted by the U. S. delegation to the conference. This procedure was highly praised by Mr. Meany, is not being followed at San Francisco.

Eight Labor Leaders Off to Europe To See War Equipment Used at Front

Washington, D. C.—At the invitation of the War Department, eight labor leaders have left here for a ten-day tour of the fighting fronts in Europe so that they can see at first hand how the products of American labor are being used to carve out victory over the enemy.

Seven of the labor representatives are high officials of AFL unions. They include Fresident Harvey W. Martin P. Durkin, of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters; President William E. Maloney, of the International Union of Operating Engineers; Vice President Morris A. Hutcheson, of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters; Secretary-Treasurer C. W. Sickles, of the Asbestos Workers; President E. E. Milliman, of the Maintenance of Way Employes; Vice President Harry J. Carr, of the International Association of Machinists, and Vice President H. R. Lyons, of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. The eighth member of the party is Vice President Jonas M. Mogerman, of the Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen, an independent union.

The labor leaders were accompanied on their eventful trip by Col. C. D. Barker, chief labor relations officer of the Army's Office of Engineers, and Col. Fred C. Foy, director of the purchases division of the Army Service Forces.

The itinerary of the trip was arranged by staff headquarters in Europe and no details may be divulged until the labor representatives return home.

Minnesota Governor Vetoes Bill Outlawing Picketing And Boycotts

St. Paul, Minn.—Governor Edward J. Thye of Minnesota vetoed a drastic bill passed by the legislature which would have put curbs on picketing and boycotting activities, and would have set up so-called "secondary boycotts."

The bill sought to make it a crime for union men to go to the defense of fellow-workers involved in a dispute with a barbed-wire employer. Violations would be "gross misdemeanors" and employers would be empowered to sue unions for damages.

All branches of organized labor appealed to Thye to veto the bill. He did so in a message which declared that the measure would imperil harmonious labor relations in Minnesota, and, besides, he pointed out that similar laws have been held unconstitutional in other states.

He called the penalty provisions too severe and asserted that they would "create an atmosphere of antagonism rather than conciliation."

"We should keep our emphasis on voluntary conciliation rather than on efforts to place in the law penalties and restrictions designed to strengthen or weaken one side or the other for conflict," Thye declared.

An immediate effort was made in the Senate, where the bill originated, to override the veto, but that move failed—and the measure is now dead.

FDR APPOINTS FREIDIN NWLB PUBLIC MEMBER

Washington, D. C.—Jesse Freidin, general counsel of the War Labor Board, was appointed by President Roosevelt to be a public member of the agency. He will fill the vacancy created when William H. Davis resigned to become Economic Administrator.

Mr. Freidin, who has served as counsel since January, 1944, is a native of New York City and was counsel to former Lieut. Governor Charles Poletti of New York. He also served as Mr. Poletti's law secretary when the latter was a New York Supreme Court Justice. Mr. Freidin has also acted as a special counsel for the New York State Power Authority.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS BACK PAY PROVISIONS

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court ruled that an employe may collect damages equal to back pay due him even though he has made a separate settlement with his employer for less.

The court upheld a clause of the wage-hour law requiring so-called liquidated damages to be paid as a penalty by employers who violate minimum wage or overtime regulations. It held in two cases that employer-employe agreements to the contrary do not prevent an employe from collecting full damages from his boss.

In a third case, however, it ruled that an employe may not collect interest on the damages.

UNION ENJOYS PERFECT NO-STRIKE RECORD

Seattle.—Here's a union with a perfect no-strike record since the war—the local lodge of the International Association of Machinists which represents the many thousands of workers employed at the Boeing Aircraft plant in this city.

"This huge plant is a shining example," said Chairman George B. Noble of the 12th Regional War Labor Board. "Not a single minute has been lost since Pearl Harbor due to strikes."

The Boeing plant manufactures Flying Fortresses and Superfortresses.

Beauty And Bonds United in Drive

Stockton, Cal.—"Miss Victory Drive"—something new in beauty contests—will be awarded by the local union whose members buy the most War Bonds in the Seventh War Loan Drive.

The contest, inaugurated by the San Joaquin Central Labor Union of the AFL, will not be based upon the pulchritude of the young ladies who compete, but each union will nominate its candidate but the judging will depend entirely on the total purchases of War Bonds.

Just the same, Don Flynn, secretary of the Central Labor Council, is confident that the winner will be beautiful to behold.

INCREASING CUTBACKS BRING UNEMPLOYMENT

Washington, D. C.—Reports of an increasing number of cutbacks and layoffs in many parts of the nation provided a preview of widespread joblessness facing workers after the war unless drastic steps are taken by the government to head off such developments.

News dispatches from Portland, Oreg., disclosed that 10,000 persons are waiting at the employment office for jobs and that by the year's end the 112,000 now employed in shipyards there would shrink to 25,000.

In San Francisco layoffs have become so numerous that the "American Labor Citizen," organ of the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council, declared the manpower shortage "gripping in the bay area has turned into an unemployment specter."

MANY GROUPS DEMAND VOICE FOR FREE ITALY

Washington, D. C.—Leaders of a score of Italian-American labor, fraternal and religious organizations appealed to Congress at a dinner meeting here for representation for free Italy at the United Nations Conference at San Francisco.

Luigi Antonini, chairman of the joint committee which sponsored the dinner, emphasized the important aid which Italy has given to the war effort of the United Nations since Mussolini was overthrown. Among those who attended the dinner were AFL President William Green, Vice President Matthew Woll and Max Zaritsky, member of high-ranking government and congressional leaders.

GREEN APPEALS FOR MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed to all workers to observe Memorial Day by remaining steadfastly on the job.

He suggested that memorial services be held in the shops and factories for the members of the armed forces killed in battle in the cause for freedom of democracy and for the members of the army of production who were killed in industrial accidents during the war production drive.

He also urged that all our members to participate in exercises on an interfaith and interracial basis," Mr. Green declared. "Such observances will demonstrate to all classes of people that the spirit of our fallen heroes still lives."

AFL UNION TRIUMPHS IN BUFFALO ELECTION

Buffalo.—A resounding victory was scored by the AFL Utilities Federal Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes in an NLRB election to determine the collective bargaining agent for transit employes in Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Lockport.

The vote was 942 for the AFL union to 706 for the CIO Transport Workers Union.

The victory climaxed a hotly contested organization and election campaign in which CIO agents were accused of reprehensible tactics.

TEXTILE WORKERS UNION WINS THREE ELECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—The United Textile Workers of America won a smashing victory at the Goodyear Decatur Mills, at Decatur, Ala., involving 1,800 workers. The election was brought another UTW victory at the Goodyear Plant at Rockmart, Ga., involving 1,200 workers.

Those election gains bring 3,000 textile workers into the UTW fold on the heels of the gain of 5,000 members last month as a result of the election held at the Pacific Mills in Lawrence, Mass.

Act Now For Labor Peace, Green Urges, So United America Can Help Truman

Labor Unity Will Aid President Solve War And Peace Problems, AFL Chief Says

New York City.—AFL President William Green declared labor has the "opportunity of a lifetime" now to reunite its ranks and help President Truman establish an enduring and prosperous peace.

Speaking at a testimonial dinner to Max Zaritsky, President of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, Mr. Green said:

"Our new President, Harry S. Truman, is an able and sincere man. He has pledged himself to carry on the policies of Roosevelt, to lead our nation to victory in the war and to establish an enduring and prosperous peace. To accomplish successfully these heavy tasks, he has asked for and must receive the help of a united America.

"There can be no united America without a united labor movement. Thus fate offers labor the opportunity of a lifetime to act and act now, to unite and unite now, for the realization of the great goals which will bring incalculable benefits to humanity in this and in future generations throughout the world. We dare not fail."

Discussing the effects of labor disunity, Mr. Green declared:

"Disunity split the ranks of organized labor in America 10 years ago and made it easy to attack individuals. Those of us who look ahead and are concerned with the welfare of the nation's workers can see grave dangers looming as the result of the division in the labor movement. When the war ends and the problems of reconversion face us, the great trade union movement which has been built up over three-quarters of a century of struggle and sacrifice may be shaken to its foundations by the impact of events. At that time, more than ever before, we will need the strength that can come only from unity if we hope to preserve and extend labor's gains.

"I know there are those who have resigned themselves to the existence of two dual labor movements in America. They may even try to convince you that no serious harm to labor will result. But they are utterly and completely wrong. I will never rest until labor is once again united into a single, all-powerful trade union movement in America. I will never cease to express every possible avenue to reach that objective."

Mr. Green paid high tribute to Mr. Zaritsky, whose sixtieth birthday was being celebrated at the dinner. He said:

"One of the impressive attributes of Max Zaritsky is his constant search for new avenues of service and new paths of endeavor for the labor movement. His concept of our organization is not a static one. He believes in organized labor as a dynamic force which must always forge ahead toward progress—progress not only for the workers but for our nation as a whole. Let me say that I subscribe wholeheartedly to those views."

Mr. Green also recalled that strong pressure was exerted upon Mr. Zaritsky to join the CIO when it was formed. He continued:

"But when the test came, he graduated the difference between principle and policy. He searched his mind and his conscience, as all of us must do in the moment of decision, and he realized that the basic principles of loyalty and democracy were all important. He decided to stay in the organization and fight on those battles within the organization rather than outside. He found that unity comes first.

"Since then Max Zaritsky has fought that lesson to others. He has rendered invaluable service to the American Federation of Labor in persuading some of those who left to come back home. Those who followed his advice are more than glad today that they hearkened to his counsel. And he is still actively and earnestly working along with me and other representatives of the American Federation of Labor to bring about the final and complete reunion. For these efforts I will never be able to express adequately my appreciation and my gratitude."—Max Zaritsky."

Demands Punishment For Nazis At Labor Exhibit of Hitler Horrors

New York City.—While stories of terrible Nazi atrocities against prisoners of war in concentration camps continued to pour out of the battlefronts, the Jewish Labor Committee here opened an exhibit at the Vanderbilt Gallery depicting the horrors inflicted by Hitler and his Gestapo upon the men, women and children of countries of Europe.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibit, AFL President William Green said:

"I know there is a tendency—a natural tendency—among people in this country to shrink from horror piled upon horror, to seek escape from grim reality. But we must not and dare not shut our eyes or close our eyes to the facts of Nazi crime. We must try to be at least a little as brave as the helpless men, women and children who faced the full fury of Hitler's fiendish mind. And if we are shocked, then we must act!

"Our first action must be to destroy every last vestige of Hitler's power. That is the firm and unshakeable policy of America and the United Nations. And the armed forces of our country, fighting together with our Allies, are now carrying that policy into effect with the conclusion by storming the last strongholds of the Nazis.

"When final victory is won, the trials of Nazi criminals—from Hitler down to the lowliest Gestapo agent must be brought to account. Justice must be rendered. We will give them fair trials, in public, with all the attention of the world centered upon them. But when they are convicted, they will be punished relentlessly, regardless of their high station in the Nazi regime, and the murderers will be forced to pay the supreme penalty for their crimes.

"But merely to punish the guilty is not enough. We must see to it that henceforth and forever anti-Semitism, the ideology and the gospel of evil—a malignant evil threatening not only the Jews, but all religion, all our precepts of human decency and ethics and the very foundations of freedom, justice and democracy. After this war is over anti-Semitism must be regarded as an international crime and thoroughly extirpated.

"There remains our responsibility to the Jews of Europe who have survived the bitter persecution of the past decade. Many hundreds of thousands are still confined in concentration camps or condemned to slave labor battalions. Other thousands are now involuntary exiles from their native lands and have wandered about the face of the earth like men without a country. Their hopes have been dashed. Their faith in God has been reinforced by suffering. They look to us for help. We cannot reject their appeal."

Mr. Green advocated restoration of civil, religious and property rights to Hitler's victims, and the opening of Palestine as a haven to those Jewish survivors "who will never find a home elsewhere." He pledged that all the AFL would do to this goal at the peace conferences.

Supreme Court Upholds NLRB Right To Ban Unfair Employe Practices

Washington, D. C.—The United States Supreme Court ruled that an employer cannot forbid employes to solicit union membership on company premises during non-work hours, and in a companion case upheld the right of union organizers to distribute labor literature on an employer's property despite a company prohibition against such activity.

Both cases were decided by an 8-1 vote with Justice Reed delivering the single opinion covering them and Justice Roberts dissenting.

The solicitation case grew out of the discharge of four employes of the Republic Aviation Corp., aircraft manufacturer, on Long Island. One had floated a company rule designed to prevent soliciting of any sort, and the other three were wearing union buttons during the progress of a drive to organize the plant. The National Labor Relations Board held that the dismissals interfered with the workers' right to organize, in violation of the Wagner Act and this ruling was affirmed by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

The literature distribution case developed at the plant of Le Tourneau Co., machinery manufacturer, near Toledo, Ohio, where two employes were suspended for violating the company rule. Here, too, the Labor Relations Board said the Wagner Act guarantees were violated but the board lost in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court said "the Wagner Act did not undertake the impossible task of specifying in precise and unmistakable language each incident which constitutes an unfair labor practice. On the contrary, that act left to the board the work of applying the act's general prohibitory language in the light of the infinite combinations of events which might be charged as violative of its terms."

On this premise the court decided that it was a proper exercise of authority for the board to hold that the action complained of violated the act.

THE AFL PRESENTS . . .

'BUILDERS OF VICTORY'

The Dramatic Story of Labor's Own Seabees

OVER CBS—EVERY SATURDAY—3:45 P.M., E.W.T.